



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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DLNR REMINDERS FOR MEMORIAL DAY BOATING SAFETY

KANE 'OHE BAY WEEKEND OUTREACH PLANNED

KANE'OHE - The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is reminding boaters, divers and ocean recreation enthusiasts to practice safety on the water over the Memorial Day weekend.

DLNR enforcement officers will again be monitoring boating activity in Kane'ohe Bay to enforce safety equipment requirements, zone violations, boating under the influence (BUI) violations and all other regulations under the department's purview. DLNR will work cooperatively with the U.S. Coast Guard on this effort.

DLNR's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation will be present at He'eia Kea small boat harbor over the weekend to provide information on boating rules, whistles, and loaner life vests for keiki. On Sunday and Monday, staff will also do renewals of vessel registrations.

"If everyone follows the rules and regulations, including caring for the bay and respecting other users, we can expect everyone to safely enjoy their outing," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson.

In State waters, boaters must carry certain types of safety equipment as required by the U.S. Coast Guard, including life vests for everyone aboard, visual distress signals, a sound producing device to signal oncoming boaters and appropriate running lights for times of limited visibility, to name a few.

Boaters going more than one mile offshore are required by law to be equipped with a VHF radio or Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon. Children 12 years of age and under must wear an appropriately sized personal flotation device such as a child's life jacket at all times when above deck.

The Kane‘ohe Bay Ocean Recreation Management Area has designated riding zones for personal watercraft and other ocean recreation activities for safety reasons and to reduce user conflicts.

DLNR will monitor regulated activities to make sure they are conducted in their proper zones within the management area.

Fines for violations of safety equipment requirements and zone violations range from \$50 up to \$1,000.

Under the State’s BUI law, known as Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of an Intoxicant, HRS §291E-61, the threshold blood alcohol content is 0.08 grams of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of breath (or grams of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of blood). Penalties for a BUI conviction may include a fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment of up to a year and may trigger revocation of an individual’s automobile driver’s license.

“If there is going to be drinking on a vessel, DLNR strongly encourages the crew to identify a designated driver for the safety of the vessel’s occupants, as well as other boaters and ocean enthusiasts. Exercising caution and obeying the law can prevent needless tragedy,” said Thielen.

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For more information, media may contact:

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25-SECOND RIP AND READ:

The Department of Land and Natural Resources will heighten its enforcement presence in Kane‘ohe Bay this summer during holiday weekends, starting with Memorial Day Weekend. Users of Kane‘ohe Bay are advised to update safety equipment aboard their vessels, observe designated riding zones and not operate a vessel while intoxicated. Boating division staff will have a booth at He‘eia Kea harbor with safety information, life vests for keiki and will renew vessel registrations. Call 587-1972 for information.